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Relation of Schools to Social Change Was Key Topic at New Orleans Meeting

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Registrations for the sixty-seventh annual conference of the Department of Superintendence, National Education Association, topped 10,000, and many live issues were presented and discussed. The convention took its keynote from the 1937 Yearbook, prepared by a committee of eleven, of which the late Frank J. Pickell, of Montclair, N. J., was chairman. The Yearbook voiced the necessity for freedom in educational classrooms, and encouraged schoolmen to oppose all forms of fascism. It cited the Ku Klux Klan, Black Legion, and other organizations and movements which the authors regarded as subversive of academic liberty.

Not that the conventioners all agreed with this doctrine. Their opinion was divided. But the air was charged with discussions of the relations of the schools to social change and problems of the hour. Men like Jesse H. Newlon and George S. Counts, both of Columbia University, struck out vigorously for unhampered expression and social action—and one of their methods of announcing their stand was the sending of a telegram, signed by thirty-one educators, to President Roosevelt, upholding his efforts at re-organizing the Supreme Court and advocating further measures of a liberal or radical nature.

On the other hand, President Orville C. Pratt, of the N. E. A., declared that it is not the function of the schools either to hamper or enhance social change. The teacher should, he said, "deal with current affairs as a scientific investigator approaches a problem, with preconceived notions kept wholly in the background, and with only one desire, to arrive as nearly as may be at the whole truth. . . . To teach the whole truth about communism as it is in Russia or elsewhere is to condemn it as one-sided, visionary, and impractical as compared to our American ideals of the good life."

Many comments on the wonderful hospitality of New Orleans were heard, and the breakfast to 8,000 persons under the Dueling Oaks will be long remembered.

Commissioner Studebaker and others handed to Dean William F. Russell, of Teachers College, Columbia, a certificate of 10,000 signatures seeking to prevent the retirement of William H. Kilpatrick, who is now sixty-five. Apparently the Columbia dean saw no hope that the trustees would make an exception in the case of Dr. Kilpatrick to its retirement rules, though these have been disregarded in some special cases. Superintendent C. B. Glenn, of Birmingham, was elected President of the department, as A. L. Threlkeld laid down the gavel after a memorable meeting.

The Journal of Education for April 5 will carry a more extended report of the New Orleans meeting.

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By HOWARD E. WILSON, *Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University;* **FLORENCE H. WILSON,** *formerly of U. S. Grant Junior High School, Youngstown, Ohio;* **and BESSIE P. ERB,** *Education Director, Old South Church, Boston, Mass.*

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Editorials

Making It Too Easy

YES, to be sure. There is deep truth in what Dr. Hendrik Van Loon told the educators at New Orleans: namely, that we have made things much too easy for today's children; that we have spared them responsibility and denied them discipline. It does us good to hear this sort of thing, as we do semi-occasionally from some keen observer who knows the meaning and the worth of discipline from experience in his own early years. On the other hand we hear more voices urging that we make life easier, safer, more secure for everybody. Can we reconcile these views? Is discipline a thing to apply in childhood and youth, and to discard later? How well does discipline go with a democracy? Maybe self-discipline is what is needed for young and old as well.

To what extent do the policies of a paternalistic government result in gains for the character of the masses? Or is there some higher goal than character for the citizens of a state—and, if so, what?

Germany and Italy and Russia are making much of discipline. But it is not self-imposed; not the discipline that makes strong characters.

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These Townsend "Tests"

ALMOST serious fallacy lurks in the series of miniature experiments now going on at scattered points with a view to proving that the Townsend plan of old age pensions is practicable.

No doubt the injection of two hundred dollars, with speeding devices attached, into any small community, can cause a noticeable stimulus to trade. But this is far from proving what would happen if the plan were applied on the vast scale contemplated by Dr. Townsend.

Granting $200 a month in cash to 10,000,000 persons, with the stipulation that it be spent within the current month, would inevitably force so great a rise in prices as to reduce the worth of the pensions and impose a heavy penalty on other citizens not favored with the pensions.

A dollar of diminishing worth naturally becomes a rapidly moving dollar. European countries had their experience with that sort of thing just after the war.

The end of skyrocketing prices is always in the gutter.

You cannot give to one-twelfth of the population free tickets entitling them to a third or a fourth of all the goods and services produced in the nation, without having something happen which doesn't emerge from an isolated test with a single $200 fund.

Let some city try it out with all its inhabitants over sixty years of age—if it has the courage for a real tryout. For ourselves we prefer to stay away from that community while the experiment is going on.

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Three Million Find Jobs

WILLIAM GREEN, president of the American Federation of Labor, estimates the number of unemployed persons in the United States in January of this year to have been 8,917,000. In the same month of 1935 it was 11,665,000, according to figures from this same source. Each month for the past year has shown a drop in unemployment totals. Half-a-million new workers came along during the year, as they do every year, and in spite of these new job-seekers the number of unemployed fell off by nearly a fourth.

Discount Mr. Green's totals as you will—the fact remains that there are still too many people out of jobs.

Mr. Green blames the too-rapid introduction of machinery for much of this condition. And he recommends a greatly shortened working week to absorb the surplus labor.

Would labor be willing to accept the wage cuts that go with lowered production per individual worker? Apparently it would not.

Like most of those offering remedies for our economic ills, the advocates want somebody outside their own group to pay for the medicine.

Henry Ford believes that there is plenty of useful work to be done before the wants of our population can be satisfied. He declares we have never had too much production but only too little distribution. All of which is true enough.

There's a loose screw somewhere in our economic or financial machinery. Can't one of Mr. Green's or Mr. Ford's mechanics find it?

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LaGuardia Off Guard

IT WOULD be amusing were it not so serious—the furore of the Nazi press over the unguarded words of Fiorella LaGuardia, mayor of New York. His Honor the Mayor of our largest city was merely indulging in a cherished American right of free speech when he referred to Herr Hitler as a "brown-shirted fanatic who is disturbing world peace." Formal apology by our State Department quickly followed the emergence of this remark to an international incident.

Our men in prominent positions will doubtless realize from now on a certain responsibility for self-restraint. Nobody wants Secretary Hull spending all his time writing apologies.

Readers' Forum

If you enjoy this Forum, why not contribute a letter of your own? A limit of 200 words is suggested.

Exchange of Principals

The idea of exchanging professors and college students between states or countries is not new, but the plan of exchanging principals between distant cities was untried, so far as I know, until George Hetzel of Pasadena and I exchanged positions. There were many obstacles to overcome—even a law of California forbidding teachers to work outside the state and receive pay. But everybody affected by the plan co-operated, and all have been enthusiastic over the results.

Among the advantages noted are: New leadership in school system and community; opportunities to travel and observe; chance to view one's own school in light of a different situation; opening of principal's own methods to criticism and challenge; opportunity to study schools and universities of the state visited; study of methods, curricula and educational philosophy, comparison of school programs, records, supervision, control, and extra-curricular activities.

Neither Mr. Hetzel nor I found any disadvantages in this broadening experience. I believe the general movement for interchanges of this sort will grow.

ELMER SCOTT HOLBECK
Woodrow Wilson School
Passaic, New Jersey

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School Marks

Those opposed to school marks contend (1) that children work for the marks rather than mastery of subject matter; (2) that marks cause disappointment; and (3) that marks may lead ultimately to a defeatist attitude. A mis-use of marks may lead to these ends just as too much turkey sometimes results disastrously. But there is no essential repugnance between marks and unfoldment. In fact, the two are complementary.

School marks are valuable because (1) they set goals; (2) they motivate effort; (3) they recognize whatever degree of achievement the child can attain; and (4) they inform parents of the child's progress.

The problem is not whether to discontinue giving marks but how to give them fairly, accurately, scientifically. Discontinuing marks is one of the biggest mistakes administrators can make and giving "satisfactory" and "unsatisfactory" is next in line.

If school is society, it should be a practical society. If school is to prepare for life it should prepare for all of life rather than an idealistic phase of it. Education should introduce children to hard, tedious work, disappointment, failure, and victory. This does not minimize the importance of interest, individual help and adaptation to individual differences but rather, it recognizes the potency of a scientific harmonization of these and an accurate check on achievement.

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Spoiled Ideals

Many boys and girls in our country today have seen within the past few years a re-enactment of Andrew Jackson's "Spoil System." Some of their fathers and other relatives who have held government jobs for a number of years have been "ousted," not because of inefficiency, but because they do not belong to the party in power. These youngsters are asking themselves and the schools: "Why does the government 'oust' a person who knows the work and renders efficient service, and replace him with one who is unfamiliar with the work just because of his political affiliations?"

How are we as teachers going to answer this question satisfactorily for the youth of today? Is there any future for the honest, conscientious person who enjoys government work?

Isn't it about time the school people of this nation opened a college or two and possibly a university or more where men and women who hope to be senators and representatives (both state and national) may study government, making of laws, economics, sociology and related subjects, and that we accept only those who pass the proper competitive examinations for these positions?

It might be a great saving to our country economically and soundly. It should relieve our nation of millions in graft and grafters. It should relieve our government floors of lobbyists and corrupt bargain makers.

It would place government makers on a higher plane and on a par with lawyers, doctors, artists, journalists, dentists, and school folk.

MARY A. LORD
North Junior High School
Sioux City, Iowa

The News Digest
OF EDUCATION

State to City
Kersey Becomes Chief Of Los Angeles Schools

LOS ANGELES.—Vierling Kersey has left his post as State superintendent of public instruction for California to become superintendent of the Los Angeles enlarged city school district. He began his educational career in 1911 as a teacher in the Los Angeles schools. While working up in the system, he took time to earn the degree of bachelor of arts at U. S. C., awarded in 1916. He was a school principal and then assistant superintendent of schools, a job he held until 1929, when he succeeded William J. Cooper as state superintendent. Meanwhile the school system grew to include 1,095 square miles, as compared with the city's 451 square miles, an area large enough to include the municipalities of New York, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, St. Louis, Detroit, and Pittsburgh.

Heath Changes
Cowles Succeeds Smyth As President; Padin Returns

BOSTON, Mass.—Important changes in the management of D. C. Heath and Company took place on February 18. The resignation of Winfield S. Smyth as president became effective, and he was succeeded by Dudley R. Cowles, vice-president since 1934 and manager of the Atlanta office since 1909. M. B. Perry, who continues to hold the office of treasurer, succeeds Mr. Cowles as vice-president. At the same time the Board of Directors was increased to seven by the election of A. B. Wright, manager of the Chicago office, Carl McGannon, manager of the Dallas office, and J. S. Smyth, manufacturing superintendent for the company. Other directors are Frank W. Scott, secretary, and Allen G. Odell, manager of the New York office.

Mr. Smyth, who was elected honorary chairman of the board of directors, has been connected with the Heath Company more than forty years, and since 1927 has been its president.

Dudley R. Cowles, the new president, has been a member of the Heath organization thirty years. Born near Williamsburg, Virginia, he graduated from William and Mary in 1895 and was head of the schools of Hampton, Virginia, until 1900, meanwhile teaching in the Virginia Summer School of Methods, and serving as president of the Virginia State Teachers' Association from 1898 to 1900.

After seven years with Silver Burdett and Company, Mr. Cowles joined the Heath forces in Boston. Two years later an office was opened in Atlanta and Mr. Cowles was placed in charge. He has been there ever since. Elected to the associate board in 1920, he became a director in 1923, secretary in 1927, and vice-president in 1934.

Along with the several other changes in the Heath organization is the return to the editorial staff of Dr. José Padin, who for the past six years has been Commissioner of Education of Puerto Rico.

Ruthven Declares Bureaucracy Peril to Academic Independence

PHILADELPHIA. — A rapidly growing danger to American higher education through the encroachment of State Legislatures into the administrative affairs of universities and through the acceptance of Federal subsidies by these institutions was described by speakers recently at a joint meeting of the American Philosophical Society with representatives of organizations administering research funds.

In the face of observations, offered at an earlier session, depicting America as relatively free intellectually as compared with some European countries, Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven, president of the University of Michigan, warned that genuine threats to "academic freedom and institutional independence" were "developing on our horizon." His viewpoint was supported by Dr. Frank Aydelotte, president of Swarthmore College.

"Our universities are facing a crisis," Dr. Ruthven said. "I wonder if you realize that only two of the State-supported institutions are free from supervision by State agencies, including the State Legislatures.

"This situation has had an astonishingly rapid rise in the last ten years. I mention it simply to develop the further thought that day by day we see the Federal Government taking over more supervision of State-supported education."

He said that Federal subsidies were having the "insidious effect" of putting many State supported schools to a greater extent under the supervision of "small bureaucrats in Washington." Asserting that if the trend continued it would reach endowed colleges and universities, he added:—

"It is not only good sense, but absolutely necessary to the preservation of our system of education, for privately endowed schools to adopt a co-ordinated plan of higher education and exert some leadership rather than drift with the tide."

New State Head
Dexter Takes Office As California Supt.

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Dr. Walter F. Dexter has taken up his duties as state superintendent of public instruction in California. Dr. Dexter succeeds Vierling Kersey, new superintendent of Los Angeles school department at $12,000 a year. The state position pays $5,000. Before becoming president of Whittier in 1923, he taught at Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., in Franklin College, and at the University of Virginia. Governor Merriam has appointed Verne S. Landreth, former president of Miramonte junior college, executive secretary.

Post Filled
Dr. Threlkeld, of Denver Heads Montclair Schools

MONTCLAIR, N. J. — Dr. A. L. Threlkeld, superintendent of schools in Denver, Col., nationally known figure in American education, has been appointed superintendent of schools here, it has been announced by Richard T. Greene, president of the Montclair Board of Education. Dr. Threlkeld has been associated with the Denver school system for the last sixteen years. He is president of the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association. Dr. Threlkeld will succeed the late Frank G. Pickell, superintendent of the Montclair schools

Retiring Teachers' Examiner Says Today's Graduates Shallow

NEW YORK.—Thirty-eight years of judging the qualifications for city teaching posts ended recently for Dr. George J. Smith, a member of the Board of Examiners since the original board was named in 1898. Retiring at the age of seventy, Dr. Smith summed up his impressions in a mood alternately mellow and caustic.

College graduates, he finds, have become more shallow in intellectual attainment with the passing of the years. This lack of "broad and thorough training," he attributes primarily to the elective system that permits students to wander at will through the curriculum, provided only that they amass enough credits to qualify for a degree.

He deems deplorable a system that permits students to offer courses in cookery or physical training as qualifications for the Bachelor of Arts degree. The elimination of Latin and mathematics from the required list for an arts degree is also unfortunate, in his opinion.

To teachers, Dr. Smith addresses a special word of caution. It is: —

"Do not feel you have 'arrived' when you get a teaching license. No teacher should be content to stagnate when he could be improving his mental equipment as long as he lives. The richer and broader his experience, the more he will have to give to his pupils.

One of Dr. Smith's last official acts was to appear before the committee on standardization to outline an objective plan for grading defects in oral English. The plan is now being weighed by the committee.

Under Dr. Smith's code some speaking faults would be treated as inexcusable, while graduated penalties would be provided for others less serious. Typical of the kind of thing he feels should bar a teacher from licensing is "slovenly and indistinct pronunciation carried so far as to make understanding difficult or impossible."

for thirteen years, who died last November. Mr. Greene said Dr. Threlkeld would assume his work in Montclair about September 1, when his contract expires at Denver. He has received a five-year contract at an annual salary of $12,500, Mr. Greene said.

Dr. T. W. Andrews

HIGHPOINT, N. C.—Dr. T. Wingate Andrews, one of North Carolina's leading educators, for ten years a director of the National Education Association and superintendent of schools here since 1921, died after a brief illness at the age of fifty-four. A native of Orange County, North Carolina, Mr. Andrews was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1908 and immediately entered educational work.

Right to Campaign

Ruling Asked About Teachers in Politics

SOMERVILLE, Mass.—Saying that teachers should be allowed to be in a position to influence public opinion, Vice-Chairman Catherine E. Falvey, at a meeting of the Somerville School Committee, presented an order asking for an opinion of City Solicitor David H. Fulton as to the constitutional right of a school teacher to take part in municipal election contests. In her order, which was referred to the committee on rules, she said that teachers are well informed in public affairs and local government, and the public should be willing to be guided by their influence. Somerville teachers have been forbidden to participate in municipal election campaigns by an order passed by the School Committee three years ago. The order is still in force, although there are no penalties for violation of it.

Investigation

Lynn School Board Hits Secret Brides

LYNN, Mass. — The Lynn school committee recently turned its attention to locating "secret brides" holding teaching positions in violation of regulation. The board, at a regular meeting, ordered Superintendent Harvey S. Gruver to investigate married teachers but rejected a proposal to force each teacher to subscribe to an oath on the question.

Commercial Teachers

Convention Scheduled For Boston This Month

BOSTON.—Two years ago a movement was initiated to seek a satisfactory solution to the problem of preparing commercial students for gainful occupations, properly training them to meet the demands made by employers. As the first step, the Business Education Council was organized under the sponsorship of the Eastern Commercial Teachers' Association and the National Office Managers' Association. Two of the outstanding aims of this Council are the standardization of vocational objectives in commercial education and the construction of standard tests for business employment. A detailed report of the accomplishments of the Business Education Council will be made and plans for the future outlined at the annual convention of the Eastern Commercial Teachers' Association, which will be held on March 24, 25, 26, and 27, at the Hotel Statler, Boston.

Foreign Languages

Philological Society Would Rouse Interest

CHICAGO. — Answering current criticisms the American Philological Society, meeting here for round table discussions, held that foreign languages have real social value because they "train the mind in the rich inheritances of the world's best thought," and afford needed mental discipline. It recommended that a committee be formed to reawaken interest in foreign languages as part of the high school curriculum. Definite action in behalf of languages is needed, they held, because many modern educational writers are attacking them as "anti-social and opposed to current notions of so-called success." A motion adopted by the group called for the formation of a committee "to combat this alarming tendency to undermine formal study of the classics for their own sake and the discipline which they impose," and to "revive and stimulate interest in the foreign languages and other related subjects, whereby the real love for learning may be kept alive and our high schools maintain true social efficiency."

Prepare to Fight

Teachers' Oath Opponents Organize for Action

BOSTON.—Fully a half dozen proposals have been submitted to the State Legislature for repeal of the Massachusetts teachers' oath law. Boston University students are being organized in another effort to force repeal of the law. Heads of the Boston University drive for concerted action of the measure are Edmund Bons, of Braintree, chairman of the New England district of the National Student Federation of America, and Frederick Lea, of Hull, president of the all-university student council. At Wellesley College a student committee has been formed representing undergraduates, faculty and administration to prepare a "reasoned protest" to the Legislature. The committee's report will be the only official participation by Wellesley College when rehearing of the teachers' oath bill comes before the General Court.

Disorderly Pupils

Superintendent Asks Stiffer Discipline

MELROSE, Mass. — Superintendent of Schools H. H. Stuart, in his annual report, states: "On the matter of High School discipline it is my opinion that we have come to the point in our educational development when a decisive attitude should be taken toward persistently disorderly pupils. Responsibility for proper behavior should be placed squarely upon the shoulders of the pupils themselves, and removed from the teachers, whose chief and immediate duty is the giving of skilled instruction. The administrative officers of the school should not be expected to adjust teachers to the discourtesy, impudence or smartness of a few pupils."

New Dean

James M. Landis Heads Harvard Law School

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Named by the Harvard Board of Overseers as dean of the Law School, James M. Landis, chairman of the Federal Securities and Exchange Commission, will enter upon his new duties September 1. Mr. Landis is the youngest man to hold the office of dean of the Harvard Law School. He succeeds to the place vacated by the resignation of former Dean Roscoe Pound, and returns to Harvard after a four years' leave of absence from his chair of professor of legislation. He is accredited with having written much of the Security Act in 1933 while the then chairman, Joseph P. Kennedy, organized the commission.

Change Minds

Brookline Taxpayers Now Favor Re-Building High

BROOKLINE, Mass.—Rebuilding of part of the old Brookline High School building, destroyed by fire last October, was favored by the Brookline Taxpayers' Association in a report sent to town meeting members. Previously the organization had advocated repairing the damaged building. The school committee has proposed that the old building be torn down and replaced with a central building, a south wing containing classrooms and a north wing containing two complete gymnasiums, several classrooms and additional laboratories, at a cost of $600,000. The present suggestion of the taxpayers' association is that the central building and south wing be built as proposed by the school committee, but that the north wing be omitted for the present, entailing a saving of approximately $225,000 in capital outlay.

Married Teacher Asks Supreme Court for Case Reconsideration

WASHINGTON.—A plea that married school teachers are entitled to work for a living "without the penalty of economic death for motherhood" was put before the Supreme Court recently in a petition begging the justices to reconsider their previous refusal to review the case of Catharine Ulrich Kabatt against the Board of Education of Elmira, N. Y.

The petition had the support of hundreds of thousands of married school teachers throughout the country, since it is believed to be a direct test of whether authorities can force an expectant mother to leave her school duties for a specified period—in this instance, two years.

Mrs. Kabatt applied for two months' leave. The Elmira school board fixed a two-year leave under the prevailing regulations in such circumstances. However, Mrs. Kabatt held herself in readiness to teach and demanded her salary at the end of the school year. When she sued for it, the New York courts ruled against her.

Contending in her appeal that she held her position under a permanent tenure law, "during good behavior," she declared that "New York City alone keeps out 1,100 of its 3,000 teachers annually by removing them arbitrarily for two years because of maternity and replacing them with cheaper substitutes and thus depriving the regular teachers of from $1,500,000 to $2,000,000 annually in salaries."

It was pointed out that seldom does the court reconsider denial of a review.

New Exams

Preliminary Tests by College Entrance Board

NEW YORK. — Rough waters are ahead for college entrance candidates this year at Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Columbia. The College Entrance Examination Board has announced a new experimental type of examination service for those who would compete for freshman scholarships in these institutions. According to Professor George W. Mullins, of Columbia, executive secretary of the board, the examinations, consisting of a scholastic aptitude test and a general achievement test, will be held Saturday, April 24, in 150 cities and towns throughout the United States. "This should furnish the participating universities with an instrument that will help them distinguish sharply between mediocre students and those of real promise," he declared. The purpose of this new service is to enable scholarship committees of the participating universities and colleges to sift and classify their scholarship candidates at an earlier date than has been hitherto possible.

Student Choices

Deciding on College Declared Wisest Act

TROY, N. Y.—About 200 of the students of Russell Sage College believe that the most intelligent act of their lives was their decision to go to college. This was their answer to the first of several queries in an annual questionnaire recently given to 230 students of psychology and education by Professor Antonios Savides. Replies to other questions ranked Jesus as the "most intelligent person in the history of mankind," with Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Lincoln, and Napoleon also mentioned; and Lincoln the "most intelligent in American history," with Washington, Franklin, Edison, and Theodore Roosevelt also named. As the "most intelligent living American," President Roosevelt received a majority vote, one student writing: "Roosevelt, even though I am not a Democrat!" Others listed were John Dewey, the Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, Henry Ford, Helen Keller, and Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh.

Young Historians

Write Full Story Of Parish Church

BIRMINGHAM, Eng.—After three years' patient research the children in the village school at Claverley, Shropshire, have just completed a 20,000-word history of their parish church. The church has a long history. Part of it is Norman; other parts were built between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. When the church was being restored a little more than thirty years ago, a series of mural paintings were discovered on the wall inside the tower. The senior boys of the school are following the example of their far-back ancestors who painted the walls of the church. Their mural paintings are being done on the walls of their own schoolrooms, 1,500 square feet of which have already been covered by pictures done under the direction of their headmaster.

Financial and Scholastic Efficiency Claimed in Winthrop School Report

WINTHROP, Mass.—The Winthrop schools achieved a record of financial and scholastic efficiency in the past year, according to the annual report of the Winthrop School Department by Edward R. Clarke, superintendent of schools. Classed with the sixteen largest towns of the state, of which it is eighth in population, Winthrop had a cost per pupil of $75.72. The cost per pupil in the entire state, according to the State Department of Education, averaged $95.96, larger by $20.24 than the Winthrop figure.

Scholastically a new record was set. Superintendent Clarke reported that of a graduating senior class of 253 pupils, about 40 per cent entered directly, without taking a post graduate or preparatory school course, some of the leading colleges and universities of the country. Approximately another 40 per cent, graduates of the commercial department, were employed in private business.

The cost to the town of the School Department last year was $263,939. Reimbursements from the state and the city of Boston amounting to $25,689 made the net cost to the town $238,250. The Winthrop school buildings are valued at about $1,000,000.

In conjunction with the low cost per pupil in the schools, Superintendent Clarke took pride in noting that all the departments of the schools were maintained to meet the highest standards and requirements.

The percentage of pupils entering the Winthrop schools and continuing through to graduate is one of the largest, Mr. Clarke said, among the school systems of the state. The average enrollment of a class entering the first grade in this town is 300 pupils. The graduating senior class last year totaled 253. The entire enrollment for all the schools of the town was 3,355 last year.

Superiority Claimed

ASBURY PARK, N. J.—Objections by Deal residents that their children should not be sent to Asbury Park and Long Branch schools because their boys and girls were "superior" to those of the latter communities evoked protests from mothers of Asbury Park and Long Branch children and an apology from the president of the Deal school board to the heads of the other two boards.

The trouble started at a meeting of the Deal Board of Education in the Deal Borough Hall to consider new school facilities for Deal children next term. The grammar school pupils have been going to Oakhurst, three miles away, but Oakhurst school officials recently announced over-crowding was so great no outside pupils could be accepted after the present term. High school pupils who live in Deal attend the Asbury Park High School.

Among Deal residents who asked the board to build a school to serve Allenhurst, Interlaken, and Deal, were Benjamin Birkenfeld, Jr., New York lawyer, and Mrs. A. G. Steinhardt. They said that if such a school were not built, Deal children would have to attend Asbury Park and Long Branch schools. Mrs. Steinhardt said she hoped this would not be necessary since Deal children were "much superior" to the "class of children" in the other communities. Mr. Birkenfeld supported her.

In the face of many protests, Mrs. Steinhardt declared she had not meant to be "snobbish," but still thought there was a "difference" between children from residential and farm districts and those from city areas.

The Deal Borough Commission and Board of Education are studying the proposal for building a school in cooperation with Interlaken and Allenhurst.

Special Schooling

12,000 Handicapped Resume Their Classes

NEW YORK.—Among more than a million public school children who have begun the Spring term, are 12,000 physically handicapped pupils in special classes which extend to them the privileges of other students. There are nine organizations to direct the special education and training of the handicapped in classes organized in schools, hospitals, orphanages, and other institutions. The children generally are crippled, cardiac, and tubercular cases, and while many are able to appear in classrooms others keep pace through bedside instruction. In addition to the regular school courses conducted by the Board of Education many of the children receive occupational training through funds supplied by the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies. When their physical condition permits the children are transferred from hospitals and convalescent centres to home instruction or to special classes and later to regular classes, their places being filled by other handicapped children in need of special care.

NYA Aid

124,818 Students Get Federal Assistance

WASHINGTON.—About 7 per cent of the young men and women students attending colleges and universities this year are earning part of their expenses through employment in the student aid program of the National Youth Administration. A total of 124,818 of the estimated 1,788,000 students attending colleges were enrolled on NYA projects in 1,686 colleges and universities. The increase over last year is 15,817 students, while eighty-four colleges were added to the program. Allocations for student aid last December were $1,869,143, of which $1,770,533 was for undergraduates and $98,610 for graduate aid. This compared with $1,559,645 and $79,300 respectively a year ago last November.

Raps Modern Methods

Revival of Arts In Teaching Urged

CHICAGO.—Attacking modern educational methods which neglect the classics and liberal arts, Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, president of the University of Chicago, in a recent address urged a revival of the arts of language to help students understand the tradition in which they live. Efforts to preserve the classics in education, Dr. Hutchins said, have failed. "It is commonly said that great books are too difficult for the modern student. All I can say is that it is amazing how the number of too difficult books has increased in recent years. The books that are now too difficult for candidates for the doctorate were the regular fare of grammar-school boys in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Among the four arts, the natural, the useful, the liberal and the fine, Dr. Hutchins said, the liberal was most important in education and the other three were subordinate.

"Knolgege" Hunt

Conant's Son Teddy Sees Harvard Institute

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—Putting into practice what his father preaches, Teddy Conant, very young son of Harvard's president, made a visit to Harvard's Geographical Institute while his father was in the Middle West urging higher scholarship standards. Teddy signed the visitors' book, too, affixed his address and assigned the reason for his trip into the field of exploration thus: "to laern more knolgege."

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Worcester Schools Modernize Courses in English Literature

WORCESTER, Mass.—With a view of giving pupils a broader view of the field of literature and better preparing them for college work, the English courses in Worcester high schools have undergone a complete revision, according to an announcement made by the Worcester school department.

In the new system emphasis is being placed on giving pupils a knowledge of the different types of literature and some examples of each, whereas in the past the pupil's attention was directed toward understanding the merit and greatness of literary work regardless of its technical category. The grammar requirements of this system have not yet been definitely decided, but most of the change in literature consists in rearrangement of writings now being studied.

Important features of the system include an introduction of pupils to types in their freshman year, followed by novel, biography, American literature and poetry, essay, drama and English literature in the next two years, concluding with a review of types in their senior year. Study of types includes the kind of subject matter, the manner of treatment by the author and his message.

School Money

Maine Bill Asks $1,750,000 for Education

AUGUSTA, Me.—The long anticipated and much discussed "education bill" has been introduced to the Legislature, requesting an appropriation of $1,750,000 for improvement of the level of education. As has been stated, it would provide a minimum expenditure of $783 for each elementary schoolroom and $1,305 for each high schoolroom in every Maine community. It provided, also, among its major provisions, that the State create an equalization fund to reimburse such communities that can't provide the suggested minimums, with an eleven mill property tax. It is estimated more than 200 communities would receive such funds on their present ratings. This is the bill for which intensive campaigning has been in progress since early fall. It bears endorsement of the State Department of Education, various Parent-Teacher Associations, the Maine Teachers' and Maine Superintendents' Associations.

Promotion System

Board Member Raps Newark Method

NEWARK, N. J. — The increased enrollment in the city's high schools with a paradoxical decrease in the elementary grades is due to "promotion without effort" in the opinion of Simon P. Northrup, a member of the Newark Board of Education. Pupils in the lower grades are promoted as a matter of course, because they find it discouraging to repeat a year's school work, Northrup told members of the Newark Taxpayers' Association. He suggested the enrollment paradox as a possible problem to be solved by a survey of schools which he told the association might be useful at "this critical time in Newark education." Northrup said he referred to the recent death of Superintendent of Schools John H. Logan. Pupils are "moved not promoted" in the lower grades, the board member said. And although their parents are not aware of it, their children are graduated without regard to examinations and are given "diplomas which mean nothing," he added. When they get to high school, the pupils stay there until they "get out or leave because of old age," Northrup said of the increased enrollment.

Program Change

Chicago Schools Ease Curriculum

CHICAGO. — Pupils in Chicago's public schools have started on a revised curriculum. High school freshmen will take three "solid" subjects—English, general science, and one elective course—instead of four. A rearrangement of study hours eliminates most homework. Credit points are allowed for music, art, and physical training. Fractions and long division are abolished in the lower grades of the elementary schools. Pupils will not encounter them until they advance to the upper classes. First graders tackle only one form of the alphabet—printed characters—instead of two. They learn the letters by tracing them on grooved patterns. Later, they will take up longhand writing. The "visual" system of teaching reading is introduced. No word is spoken by the instructor or the class of beginners during the period of actual instruction. Instead, for example, the teacher holds up a card bearing the printed word CLOCK and points to the clock at the front of the room. The aim is to speed the child's comprehension of the meaning of words. The theory is that comprehension was slower when youngsters learned words by reading them aloud, because they repeated the words to themselves before gleaning their meaning when they encountered them again.

Social Centres

31 Campuses Now Have Outing Clubs

BOSTON.—Outing club cabins are replacing campus social halls as the hubs from which the spokes of college week-end life radiate. Throughout the East college students of both sexes are turning to the out-of-doors for their Saturday and Sunday recreation. Skiing, tobogganing, ice-skating, ski-joring, sail-skating, and ice-boating blend snow and wind and speed into a memorable experience for the collegian. At the cabin in the evening chilled limbs are thawed out around a leaping blaze and tired bodies welcome sound sleep in heavily blanketed beds. From five to seven thousand students in thirty-one campuses in New England and the Middle Atlantic States are now members of outing clubs affiliated with the Intercollegiate Outing Club Association. Oldest and largest of the clubs is that at Dartmouth, reigning like a feudal baron in the North Woods, with a domain of twenty cabins and six Adirondack-type shelters linked by eighty miles of trail. Established in 1909 by a group interested chiefly in skiing, the club has grown to a membership of 1,500 and is an important factor in Dartmouth social life.

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No Cure Known

Blames Love Affairs For Student Flunks

COLUMBUS, O.—Lazy university freshmen can be prodded into studying and sick ones can be treated, but when they fall in love watch out for "flunks," Charles W. Reeder, junior dean of Ohio State University's School of Commerce, declares, adding that "there is no known preventive for the cardiac disease." "Although students seldom admit it, their love affairs share with lack of study and poor health the blame for failing class work," he said. "Young men and women enter college just as they are reaching the mating age," he continued, "and some of those love affairs are much more serious to them than their studies. A person can't think of two things at the same time, so it's usually the classwork that suffers."

Pay Cut Case

Supreme Court Hears New Jersey Teachers

WASHINGTON. — The Supreme Court recently took under consideration the contention by teachers in West New York, N. J., that a reduction in their salaries in 1933 violated constitutional and contract rights. At the end of oral argument before the tribunal Chief Justice Hughes indicated that the sole question before the court was whether the New Jersey Teachers Tenure Law of 1909 established a contract prohibiting reduction in teachers' salaries. An attorney for Jay B. Phelps and Lucy Askam and other West New York teachers held in arguments that the West New York Board of Education deprived teachers of salaries guaranteed by State law against reduction when it ordered a 10 to 15 per cent pay cut in 1933.

One Session

Stoneham Drops Two-Platoon Plan

STONEHAM, Mass.—Superintendent Varney has announced that the Stoneham junior and senior high schools have ceased the two-platoon system of attendance which had been in practice during the past few years. Return to the one-session plan was effected by adopting the recommendations of the survey committee which studied the Stoneham schools, grades VII-XII, during the summer of 1936. Dr. Frederick J. Gillis, assistant superintendent of the Boston public schools, was chairman of the survey committee. Dr. Gillis personally appeared before the Stoneham town meeting in September, and, as a result of his presentation of the school situation, the town meeting overwhelmingly voted the appropriation necessary to carry his recommendation into effect.

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"Platoon" Education Declared Outmoded; "Line" Type Favored

PORTLAND, Ore. — The platoon system of education in Portland and many similar teaching plans throughout the nation lead to the "growing lack of public confidence in education," according to Dr. Malcolm MacLean, director of the general college of the University of Minnesota.

In place of the platoon system, Dr. MacLean told Portland teachers at a special forum meeting, the line type of education is the most advanced of present methods. The line type allows the student, once he has found something that interests him, to follow it and all its ramifications, rather than jump from one course to another as generally required under the platoon system, according to Dr. MacLean.

"The platoon system was an outgrowth of the times just following the war and in a way was a handy little gadget for its purpose," he declared. "In those days the schools were suddenly besieged with hundreds of thousands of youngsters, all seeking an education, and that was the only way to handle them.

"Regiment them, give them only so much of this, so much of that, and hand them along—that is the theory—but it does not give them an education.

"In the early days, education was a luxury. This was replaced by the Horatio Alger complex. It meant giving them a practical education, an education that would get them a job. The depression pointed out a few of the fallacies of the idea," he concluded.

Schools and teachers should aid students to determine individual differences, possibilities, attitudes and ways of adjustment to the world, according to Dr. MacLean.

Need No Light

Blind in Ontario School Read Nights While in Bed

BRANTFORD, Ont. — Without the knowledge of school officials, children at the Ontario School for the Blind here sometimes read in bed at night a book they have slipped in with them, Principal H. J. Vallentyne said. They read with their fingers the raised Braille type, and if it is chilly they simply pull the covers up over their hands and the book, and continue with the story. Because they read only Braille type, there are no "Deadeye Dick" or other "pulp" books for them to read. Since it costs so much to print them, all Braille books are those "worth reading" and for that reason officials wink at the children's custom of taking books to bed with them.

Share Collections

School Revenue Jumps to $2,000,000

RICHMOND, Va.—Richmond's city schools received more than $2,000,000 from the city in 1936 as a result of increased revenues that brought total collections for the year to approximately $9,700,000, or more than $800,000 above the estimate made by the city comptroller on February 1, 1936. The schools' share of the total revenue for the year will be as large, if not larger, than in any year of their history. When the year opened on February 1, 1936, it was estimated the schools would receive $1,857,000 as their share of the city's income, but indications were that this amount would be exceeded by approximately $150,000. In 1935, the schools got $1,885,496 from the city.

Workers Campaign

Provision of Study Urged for Labor

WINNIPEG, Man. — Provision of study classes for workers, under university professors, is the object of a campaign to form a Workers' Educational Association in Manitoba. At a meeting of the Trades and Labor Council, the project was endorsed, and it is expected its formation will be undertaken soon. The plan was outlined to the labor council by Drummond Wren, general secretary of the association for Canada. In Ontario, he said, the association had received a grant of $10,000 through the university. Each local union will contribute a small donation in accordance with the number of its members, while those enrolling in the classes will pay a modest fee, in order to finance the undertaking.

Who Controls?

State Executives' Power Over Higher Education

WASHINGTON. — Apparently in most States the Governor and his various councils have more potential control over State colleges and universities than they often exercise, according to an Office of Education bulletin written by John H. McNeely, entitled "Authority of State Executive Agencies Over Higher Education." Not only does the Governor as a rule appoint the governing boards of such institutions, but in forty-seven States he or an agency under him has authority over their budgets and financial affairs. In thirty-one States the Governor or a council may investigate the management, administration and operation of State colleges. Executives in thirteen States can act on matters of faculty personnel and such minor items as travel of staff members to educational conventions. This tendency to give educational boards less authority and State officials more in college and university affairs is growing, the bulletin states. It sees "far-reaching implications" in the transfer of control, "influencing the conduct of education."

Learn to Forecast

Weather Predicting Embodied in Course

DURHAM, N. H.—The University of New Hampshire is introducing a course on weather forecasting. Touched on in previous courses given by Dr. Donald Chapman, the weather now occupies for the first time a course by itself. It is on the "prescribed and recommended" list for the second semester and is called "Elementary Meteorology." The object is to make the undergraduate "weather conscious." Dr. Chapman regards his course as too elementary to produce professional weather men, but says his students should be able to forecast the weather at least twelve hours in advance. Moreover, he thinks there is a real field for the student of weather conditions with commercial aviation firms which are looking for meteorologists trained in technical schools.

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Book Reviews

Poetry by Clubwomen

HOMESPUN. AN ANTHOLOGY OF POETRY. By the General Federation of Women's Clubs. New York, Cincinnati, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta, Dallas, San Francisco: American Book Company.

Encouraged by prizes and the efforts of an energetic "Poetry Committee," thousands of American clubwomen ventured into creative versification. The book entitled "Homespun" is a collection of the poems regarded as best worth preserving in printed form. Gathered over a five-year period, these samples include many that have both charm and excellence. As a cross section of the poetry-making ability of American women, the anthology compiled by Anita Browne for the General Federation of Women's Clubs is worthy of note by observers of national traits and aptitudes and cultures.

Naturally, not all of the verse published in "Homespun" is as highly polished as the professional versifier would have had it. But many of the stanzas are beautiful and some are deeply moving. In all cases, the aim of rendering these experimenters appreciative of the poetry of others has almost surely been accomplished. By creating in any field, one learns to vibrate with other creators in that field —and perhaps in neighboring fields as well.

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Cultivation of Reason

EDUCATION AS CULTIVATION OF THE HIGHER MENTAL PROCESSES. By Charles H. Judd, with the co-operation of Ernst R. Breslich, J. M. McCallister, and Ralph W. Tyler. New York, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Atlanta, San Francisco: The Macmillan Company.

Very little has so far been done toward discovering how the reasoning process may be developed in children or adults. Much of education continues to be predicated upon the assumption that the packing of information into human heads will somehow equip them for meeting life situations as these arise.

Encouraged by his friend, Henry Suzzallo, and by a small grant of Carnegie funds for the purpose of study along this line, Dr. Judd has produced this 200-page book with a long title and a large amount of stimulus to educators to employ their own "higher mental processes" in working out this crowning task of the schools—namely, getting pupils to think.

That the surface has merely been scratched in this area of instruction is frankly admitted by Dr. Judd. Nor does he believe that any simple formula is to be found.

He recognizes the value of the modern emphasis upon correlation of studies, but deems it possible to carry this too far. He points to the continued need of systematic learning of number skills and language skills, as having a vast usefulness in preparing the mind for those generalizations and syntheses that occur in reasoning. The ability to compare, to perceive relationships among ideas, to select, to regroup, and to reach warranted conclusions—this is what education would like to develop. How to do it still remains a good deal of a mystery. Dr. Judd's book should blaze the trail for further pioneering in this upland forest of man's mental powers.

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The Mental Health Angle

EDUCATING FOR ADJUSTMENT. By Harry N. Ridlon, Ph. D., College of the City of New York. New York, London: D. Appleton-Century Company, Inc.

The past dozen years have witnessed immense gains in the adapting of education to the individual child. Innumerable facts have been learned as to why certain maladjustments occur and how these may in many cases be remedied. It remains to extend this knowledge more and more widely among the teachers and others who exercise close environmental influence upon the child.

Such a book as "Educating for Adjustment" should be a welcome aid to the adult leader who is groping in the field of mental hygiene for the solution of problems arising from the atypical behavior of children. Here will be found much illumination, shed through a medium that is clear and free from distorting blemishes.

The author conceives mental hygiene as a positive and affirmative adjunct of the school, not merely a negative one to be employed where trouble has arisen. There are ways of approaching the child which lead naturally to the desired and desirable behavior responses. Mental hygiene employed in this manner becomes a preventive of ills.

The treatment given the subject in this volume is sufficiently full to be of value without being so superabundant as to repel the reader or student.

It is vital to the success of education that every teacher acquire an intelligent interest in the psychological factors which account for personality differences. This new treatment of a decidedly modern, rapidly growing science should contribute greatly to this end.

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For Algebraic Mastery

A FIRST COURSE IN ALGEBRA. By John C. Stone and Virgil S. Mallory. Chicago, New York, Boston: Benj. H. Sanborn & Co.

Points to like about this text are numerous. Best of all seems to be its admirable organization and gradation. The pupil is not left to grope in the dark. He proceeds from the known to the unknown by easy stages. Each new principle is first explained; then illustrated by simple examples, so abundant and so clear-cut as to permit thorough understanding.

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• •

Encouraged, as she says, by the feature, "All in the Day's Work," which Principal Everett Perkins writes for this magazine, Miss Hellen B. Pink, of Central High School, Minneapolis, has written a small brochure called "Pitter Patter," in which she presents some of the ideas and devices she has found to work in her everyday experience as a teacher. We could wish she had gone into more detail with some of her points, but she has at least set an example of what a great many fine teachers might do for their fellow workers (and for the clarifying, tonic effect upon themselves) by giving away some of their professional secrets. How do you, for instance, budget your time and teach children to budget theirs? How do you give assignments so they are not neglected or forgotten? It is all an art, and one never gets the knack so perfectly as not to appreciate fresh hints.

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Suggest Swedish

Move for New England Study of the Language

WORCESTER, Mass.—A movement to introduce the study of the Swedish language in the high schools of New England has been started in Massachusetts. Originally formulated by educators and interested citizens of the Eastern States, the plan has been sponsored by a Swedish-American newspaper published here. The necessary petitions will soon be presented formally to the Boards of Education in several New England cities. For several years Swedish has been taught in many city high schools of the Middle West and in certain Eastern universities. The demand for its incorporation in the high school curricula of the East comes mainly from people of Swedish descent, who want their children to have an opportunity to learn the language of their ancestors. The interest in Sweden on the part of Americans has developed tremendously during recent years, and has been stimulated by travel and by books available in translations.

Want Soda Pop

Pupils Sit Down To Push Strike

MARBLEHEAD, Mass. — Students at the Marblehead Senior high school staged a sit-down strike recently to emphasize their demands for soda pop in the school cafeteria. With nearly 500 pupils boycotting the cafeteria, lunch receipts in one day shrank from the previous $100 average to about $30. Most of the proponents of pop brought their own lunches and sat down and ate them in the cafeteria, with the "sit-down" protest continuing through the noon recess. Miss Mildred Durland, dietician, has steadfastly declined to add tonic to the menus, providing fruit juices instead. "We're not taking the situation too seriously," James W. Vose, superintendent of schools, said. "There is plenty of good food there for them. If they don't want it, they don't have to buy it."

Seeks Funds

North Carolina Plans For School Appropriation

RALEIGH, N. C.—The closing of public schools in several rural sections of North Carolina, particularly in Forsyth County, where all were suspended recently because of the inadequacy of busses transporting children, has brought the announcement from Governor Clyde R. Hoey that he is asking an appropriation from the Legislature to cure this defect. Forsyth County schools were closed after a grand jury pronounced the busses in use there unsafe. Holiday was furnished about 10,000 students on account of this move, but the schools now have reopened, although some are closing in other parts of the State, including Wake County.

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Beatrice—"I think Amy Smith is the meanest creature I ever met. I showed her my engagement ring and she said it was always too tight for her."

Rosalie—"Yes, she said exactly the same to me last year when I had it."

• •

McGinty

Mike was smiling all over his face. "I've a dandy job, now, Pat," he told his friend.

"Who is it ye work for?" asked Pat.

"Casey's, the contractors," was the reply.

"Phwat is it ye're doin'?" inquired his friend.

"Diggin' a well," replied Mike, with an artful wink. "I've dug down so far now that th' boss can't see if I am workin' or not."

• •

Kind to Captain

"Now, my son," said his fond mother, as the boy was starting off to join the Navy, "remember to be punctual in rising every morning, so you will not keep the captain waiting breakfast for you."

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Velly Muchee

A guest at a banquet took pains to make himself agreeable to a Chinaman sitting next to him. Somewhat at a loss for small talk, he ventured after the first course, to inquire, "Likee soupee?"

There was no reply except a genial beam. After the next course he followed up his first opening with, "Likee fishee?" This evoked a still more genial beam.

Later in the evening the visitor from the Far East responded to a toast in perfect English.

On resuming his seat he asked his neighbor, "Likee speechee?"

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Pre-Flunked

The president of the university had dark circles under his eyes. His cheeks were pallid.

"You look ill," remarked his wife. "What is wrong, dear?"

"Nothing much," he replied. "But I had a fearful dream last night, and I feel this morning as if I—as if I—"

"What was the dream?" asked his wife.

"I dreamed the trustees required that I should pass the freshman examination for admission!" sighed the president.

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A Ten Center

"What is that a picture of?" asked a small tot.

"That's the Statute of Liberty," big brother replied. "You can always tell her 'cause she's got an ice cream cone in her hand."